

has always fought, the violent lie that with enough brute force, human cruelty can subdue human freedom.

In the 2 years since we declared war on this new, old enemy, the United States has not suffered a major terrorist event on our soil. Thousands of terrorists have been brought to justice by our law enforcement community and thousands more have had justice brought to them by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.

Even so, after 2 years, two successful military campaigns, and 50 million liberated Afghans and Iraqis, our dangerous days are still just beginning.

Winston Churchill, in a similar moment at the dawn of the Second World War, braced his countrymen by saying: "We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering." But he would not yield. He understood that in the face of evil, mankind's only option was to wage war by land, sea, and air. He understood that its only objective was victory. Victory at all costs. Victory in spite of all terrorists, however long and hard the road may be.

The moral defiance Churchill voiced that day, Americans fired within ourselves that moment 2 years ago when we realized we were at war. Today our Armed Forces are deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq because we are resolved to wage this war for human liberty to its end.

We know now the lesson of 9/11, that freedom and terrorism cannot coexist. This battle will be decided by our victory or by our surrender, in security or in shame.

America will have won or lost, and the brave heroes we mourn today, those who gave their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, the Pentagon, Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world over the last 2 years, will have either sacrificed for virtue or died in vain.

The question, then, before the American people today after 2 armed years of struggle in the face of a relentless evil is whether our will is as powerful as our weapons.

This September 11, let us reaffirm our commitment to freedom and our resolve to end global terrorism everywhere its merciless hatred lurks. For if we stand together so committed and so resolved, we shall overcome. And even now as we look back on the day America came to know evil, we can by the grace of God also look forward to the day America will come to know evil's defeat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### PATRIOT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, today is Patriot Day, so designated by a law enacted by this Congress in October 2001, that calls on the people of the United States to observe a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives that terrible day. It is a day of national prayer and mourning, a day to honor memories of the 3,016 men, women, and children who perished on September 11, 2001.

In my south Texas congressional district, numerous cities, schools, and civic organizations are holding ceremonies today. I want to especially mention a few events like those being held at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School in Beeville VFW Post 9170, as well as in the Staff Sergeant Ernesto Garcia American Legion Post 633 in Mathis, Texas.

In that moment of silence, we remember all of those who perished and pray for their families and loved ones who endure the pain and loss of that tragic day. We honor especially the heroic sacrifices of our firefighters, police and rescue personnel, military servicemembers, and the courageous passengers on Flight 93 who saved hundreds of more lives by stopping that fourth plane which crashed in Pennsylvania. They are the true heroes and patriots. And so are the tens of millions of Americans who on that day answered their Nation's calls by contributing to relief efforts and helping those in need.

As we commemorate the terrorist attack on America 2 years ago, we also reaffirm our resolve as a Nation to fight the scourge of international terrorism, to destroy the abilities of al Qaeda to mount deadly attacks against innocent civilians in the United States, the Middle East, and beyond. Achieving that goal will require the concerted effort of all civilized nations. Even as we pay tribute to our troops defending our freedoms abroad, we applaud the President for turning to the United Nations to help in the major effort that lies ahead in rebuilding Iraq.

In the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, Congress responded with unprecedented unity and speed. We authorized the President to use all necessary force to destroy the al Qaeda network and the Taliban government that provided it safe harbor in Afghanistan. We enacted legislation to strengthen our homeland security. New laws overhauled our airport security system, fortified our borders, and provided our intelligence and law enforcement agencies with new tools to track

down terrorists at home and abroad. And we worked together with the President to establish the Department of Homeland Security. But much more remains to be done to secure our homeland to make Americans safer and more secure.

Providing for the common defense as set forth in the preamble to the Constitution is our first responsibility as Members of Congress. We need to improve the protection of our borders by hiring more border patrol agents and inspectors and by employing technology to monitor every mile of our borders around the clock. We also need more extensive security protections for our commercial ports, and we need to provide our first responders with the equipment and training they need to respond to another terrorist attack.

As we remember 9/11, we also recognize that some positive things have come out of this tragedy. All across America we see a renewed sense of community, a feeling of patriotism and greater appreciation for the freedoms and the liberty that make our country great.

In the aftermath of September 11, a Newsweek poll found that fully 78 percent of the public felt more patriotism and love of country.

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It is estimated that more than half of American households proudly display the flag on their homes or automobiles compared to 15 percent before September 11.

A recent CNN-USA Today poll shows that an overwhelming majority of Americans, 70 percent, are extremely proud to be an American. They are proud of what our country stands for and proud to live in the greatest democracy in the history of the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us hope that this renewed sense of patriotism, of fellowship with our local communities, of compassion for those in need, and respect for those who protect and defend us will strengthen, comfort, and sustain us in the great struggle that lies ahead.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in the gentleman from Minnesota's (Mr. GUTKNECHT) position.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.